

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



THE IDENTITY OF WERNER'S DROMICUS
W-NIGRUM.

BY DORIS M. COCHRAN.

The type of *Dromicus w-nigrum* Werner (Jahrb. Wiss. Anst. Hamburg, vol. 26, Beih. 2, 1909, p. 222) came from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and was collected by Dr. Fritz Rauch. It was described as having 19 scale-rows; 189 ventrals; a divided anal; 101 subcaudals; 7 supralabials of which the third and fourth enter the eye; 1 prae- and 3 post-oculars; 1+2 temporals; 4 infralabials in contact with the first pair of chin-shields; the internasals are shorter than the prefrontals; the frontal is $1 \frac{4}{5}$ times as long as broad, longer than its distance from the end of the snout, shorter than the parietals; the loreal is quadrangular, and longer than high. A male presumably having the same data as the type has 188 ventrals, while a young specimen from Sanchez has 189 ventrals and 105 subcaudals.

The most conspicuous feature of the coloration may be translated from Werner's description as follows: "On the parietals a dark chevron-shaped mark with the apex pointing forward, forming with the dark postocular bands a W-shaped mark."

Barbour (Mem. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., vol. 44, No. 2, 1914, p. 336) stated that he was inclined to believe that *Dromicus w-nigrum* was an *Alsophis melanichnus* Cope.

The presence of the W-shaped mark which is so striking in *Ialtris dorsalis* (Günther) led me to compare this species with the description of *Dromicus w-nigrum* and I find that the two agree in every character of scalation and coloration. I am confident that when the teeth of the type of *w-nigrum* in Hamburg are examined, they will be found to be the teeth of *Ialtris dorsalis* and not of the *Alsophis* (= *Dromicus*) type.

Thus Werner's *Dromicus w-nigrum* must go into the synonymy of *Ialtris dorsalis* (Günther).

